

MINUTES  
MANSFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
Special Meeting – Regional Economic Development Forum  
Thursday, June 25, 2015  
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: S. Ferrigno (Chair), J. McGuire, M. Hirschorn, R. Beebe, G. Thompson (5:46 p.m.)  
Staff present: Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development

Ferrigno called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Public Comment: No public comments received.

Approval of Minutes: M. Hirschorn MOVED and R. Beebe seconded approval of the March 26, 2015 regular meeting minutes and the May 28, 2015 special meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. **2015 Work Plan:** Painter updated the Commission on the budget allocation for an economic development intern for FY16 and noted that Kevin Filchak had been hired for the position. She updated the Commission on current activities, including a permitting guidebook being developed by Filchak. Members would like to review the guide before it is finalized and also have input into other intern projects. For the next meeting members wanted to identify priorities for the year and assign tasks to Filchak and other members. Hirschorn noted that he did not agree with all of Hart's recommendations from the previous meeting. It was suggested that members priorities and assign tasks at the next meeting.
2. **2015 Regional Economic Development meeting:** Members discussed the May forum and ideas generated including whether the staff could share press releases on events such as Live Music Wednesdays with other towns and using *The Patch* as an advertising and marketing tool. Painter noted that a thank you note was being sent to the Deputy Commissioner for his attendance and participation.

New Business:

1. **Update – Business visitation survey:** Currently about 38 interviews have been completed. Common themes are emerging including a reputation as not being business friendly. The members want to draft a letter to the businesses inviting them to a discussion on common themes.
2. **Marketing in Mansfield:** Members discussed having Filchak research best practices when he returns. McGuire discussed creating welcome plaques for business. Thompson suggested that this could also be done with existing businesses for "milestone events."
3. **Next meeting/agenda items:** The focus of the next meeting will be on identifying priorities and tasks for the economic development intern and members over the course of FY16.

Reports: Painter provided updates on the CWC water project, Senate Bill 1 and a potential new member for the Commission.

Communications: None received.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Painter, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development